NEW APPLICATION OF IRON DROSS.—A French mechanic formed the idea that by subjecting iron dross to the slow cooling process which is known to produce a total change in the nature of glass, a new and useful species of stone might be obtained: and as iron dross, such as the large furnaces yield, is a wholly useless substance, the announced successful result of his preserving attempts cannot but be matter of great interest, more especially at the present time, when the smelting furnaces of England are in a hitherto unknown state of activity. The object which the Frenchman sought to accomplish was, to impart to iron-dross the compactness and hardness of granite, and at the same time to save the cost and labour which the hewing of the real stone requires. To this end he contrived to let the iron refuse, while in a fluid state, run into iron forms, which were previously brought to a red heat by being placed so as to receive the superfluous flame which issues from the mouth of the furnace; and, in order to insure the slow cooling, these forms are provided with double sides, between which sand is introduced, which is well known to be a bad conductor of heat; the whole is then brought again to a glow heat, and in like manner again cooled off. By this procedure, it is asserted, the discoverer has succeeded in forming paving-stones, flags, large building-blocks and even pipes of any given form of a degree of hardness and polish equal, to the best hewn natural granite, and at the most trifling conceivable cost.

RAILWAY TERMINI IN LONDON.—*Herepath* laughs at the notion of having only one terminus in the heart of London for all the railways? How many streets would it require for exit and entry? What size must the terminus be? And how would it be possible for the inhabitants to pass and repass those streets without numerous and fearful accidents, particularly at such times as Greenwich fair, Easter, Whitsuntide, &c.? At Derby the station is 40 acres area, and only three lines of railway run into it. The London and Birmingham, Great Western, and South Western Metropolitan termini together, we apprehend, considerably exceed that. Then there is the Eastern Counties, and Northern and Eastern, the Blackwall, the Greenwich with its millions, the Dover, Brighton, and a host of new schemes, coming into London. What space is it possible would be large enough for all these? Where in London is it to be got: and what would it cost if it could be got? Would 100 or 150 acres be sufficient? Comparatively speaking, London would have to be swept away—the city, indeed, almost entirely, to provide it with a railway station.

BARRY *versus* SOANE.—A writer in the *Athenæum*, in an article on architectural mutations, says, relative to the alteration of Soane's Board of Trade, at Whitehall:—"The front is already completely dismantled, and stripped of all its columns and stonework, which is almost enough to bring Sir John from his '*domus æterna*' to protest against the audacious sacrilege, although Mr. Barry is not treating his work only as he himself did that of his brother knight, Sir Robert Taylor at the Bank of England. Still Mr. Barry might be content with devouring as much of poor old Soane as he had already got, his Law Courts (on which he prided himself so much), and his Scala Regis, and Royal Gallery at the House of Lords, all of which, after escaping the conflagration and the fate of perishing, like Semele, in a glorious blaze, will soon be destroyed more ignominiously by the rude and ruthless hands of workmen. Truly Mr. Barry seems bent upon exterminating Soanean architecture altogether, at least as much of it as he possibly can; nor, we dare say, would he at all scruple to demolish the '*domus æterna*' itself.

NEW AND ECONOMIC MODE OF GENERATING STEAM.—A French engineer, M. Leonard, now in London, has discovered an exceedingly simple means of curtailing the quantity of coal hitherto required in the generation of steam. His principle, for which he has taken out a patent, is that of putting whale or other fish oil into the boiler, unmixed, or with more or less water. When the oil is at a temperature producing steam, water is thrown in, and steam is produced as fast as required by the machine, without the oil passing off in vapour, or decomposing. Various experiments have been made, and the saving in fuel is stated at from 40 to 50 per cent.

SPAFIELDS BURIAL GROUND.—Towards the close of last week, Mr. Bramhall the barrister who had been appointed arbitrator by the court of Queen's Bench, to decide upon the proper steps to be taken with respect to this Plague-spot in the metropolis, sat for the first time at Fendall's Hotel, Palace Yard. After a short conversation, the proceedings were postponed for a week to allow of an examination of the grave-yard being made by a chemist and surgeon to be appointed by the arbitrator.

MONUMENT TO THE REV. DR. WATTS.—The inauguration of a cenotaph to the memory of the late Dr. Watts, author of the well known "hymns," took place last week at the Albany Park Cemetery. It consists of a full-length figure of Dr. Watts, in his ecclesiastical costume, nine feet in height, standing on a pedestal of Portland stone, thirteen feet high and six feet square. In his left hand he is represented holding a book, and two others are upon the seat on his right side. It stands about the centre of the grounds.

NEW HOSPITAL AT GREENOCK.—The late Sir Gabriel Wood, whose demise took place in London a few days ago, has given in charge of appointed executors, the princely sum of 80,000*l.*, to be expended in the erection and maintenance of an hospital in Greenock, for the reception of the aged, infirm, and disabled seamen of that port.

Tender.

For building stabling for 100 horses, omnibus sheds, and other works, at Upper Holloway, Mr. J. Wagstaff, architect.

Love	£2350 0 0
Chesterman.....	2265 0 0
King and Co.....	2145 0 0
Curtis and Co.	2018 0 0
Watson	1919 14 0
Allen	1895 0 0

Tenders opened in the presence of the parties.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For repairing and keeping in repair for three years the Harnham, Blandford, and Dorchester Turnpike-road.

For the erection of certain buildings for the purpose of a Fever Hospital, &c., in the Land of Prombe, Hoxton, for the parochial authorities of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

For the restoration of the south porch of Rotherham church.

For paving and repairing certain carriage and footways in the district of Knightsbridge, for the paving commissioners of the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster.

For the supply of materials to the commissioners of the metropolis roads.

For supplying the parish of Hackney with 10 tons weight of cast-iron Lamp-posts, to weigh not more than 3¼ cwt. each post.

For supplying the Richmond Railway Company with 35,000 Oak keys.

For executing the works of the Horsham and Keymer Branches of the London and Brighton Railway. Tenders to be sent in for the two contracts, separately.

COMPETITION.

The committee for the erection of the South Staffordshire General Hospital, Wolverhampton, are desirous of receiving plans, specifications, and estimates connected therewith. The sum of 100*l.* will be given for the one selected.

The committee appointed to superintend the Rebuilding of the Parish Church of Llandilo are desirous of receiving designs, in the Gothic style, for the same. The sum of 50*l.* will be given for the one selected, and 30*l.* for the second best.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

At Kneesworth, near Royston, Cambridgeshire, a fall of Ash and other trees; also a quantity of Fir poles, spires, and topwood.

At the Ship-yard, near the Cliff, Ipswich: a large quantity of superior and useful Timber, suitable for building purposes.

At Haselgrove, Queen Camel, Somerset: upwards of 1,000 Maiden Oak, Elm, and Ash timber trees, now standing.

In the Subscribers' Wood Yard, Baltic-street, Leith: 240 logs Honduras Mahogany, 140 logs St. Domingo ditto, 146 logs Cuba ditto, 148 planks Rio Rosewood, 147 planks of Bahia ditto.

BY TENDER.

To be delivered, free, on board, in one or more Prussian ports in the Baltic: 200,000 Fir railway sleepers and 150,000 Oak ditto.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Subscriber from the first."—*In measuring plastering the openings should be deducted. The sides of the openings, if plastered, added. If the walls are stuccoed and the cornice be under six inches in depth, it is the custom to include one-third the height of cornice in measuring height of walls; if floated, two-thirds. When cornice is above six inches in depth, include whole height of cornice in measuring walls, and then deduct and add (the round of room by depth of cornice) as "not set."*

"Well Wisher."—*"Arnott's Elements of Physics" may be obtained through any bookseller.*

"Not a Victim."—*We are not disposed to return to the subject at this moment.*

"J. B. B." *would best obtain the information by writing to the Rev. J. W. Pugh, Llandilo.*

"D. E. I."—*Either Keene's cement or Martin's cement, answers admirably for internal work, and is well fitted for mouldings.*

"Assessment of Dilapidations," "Archi," "D. R.," "Barrister," *should have given us their names. An anonymous opinion merely, in such a case is worth nothing.*

"Beginner."—*The "circular shallow recesses" found in spandrils of Norman arches are simply ornamental: they are very general.*

"X. Z. X."—*A notice of the church from a local paper is in type: it shall be withheld for a few days, so that our correspondent may write to us.*

"J. R."—*We shall be glad to have the particulars of the case Porter v. Wilson.*

"Hinges."—*A. B. H., Post-office, Broadway, Deptford, says he has invented a spring hinge, and would be glad to dispose of the invention.*

"J. K." *has our thanks.*

"Young Cabinet Maker."—*An elementary treatise on perspective will teach him what he requires.*

"Revision of the Building Act."—*We are compelled to postpone consideration of a host of letters on this subject.*

"T. S."—*The letter about Corn stone is merely an advertisement. Any real information on the subject we will gladly insert.*

Westminster Sewers.—"W. A." "X. Y. Izzard," *&c., must pardon us for delaying the consideration of their communications.*

"A Youngster."—*We also published a work on the subject a short time ago, which will be found useful.*

Postponed.—"A few questions respecting Sewers," "Health of Towns," "Working Classes' Association," "Mr. Lucas's Restoration of the Parthenon," "St. Dunstan's."

Received.—"J. S.," "T. L." "W. P." "J. L." (Bond-street), "J. Hare," "C. Humphrey," "A. B." "An Abstract of the Evidence on Mr. Perkins' Petition for an Extension of the Patent for his Hot Water Apparatus," 1845, "The Westminster Review" for December, 1845 (Clarke, Pall-mall), "Old England," concluding part (Knight), "Gallery of Arts" (Knight), Card to lectures at St. Martin's Library, "The Railway Review" for December (Simpkin and Marshall).

**** Correspondents are requested to address all communications to the EDITOR.

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